

REMARKS

The rejection of Claim 4 under 35 USC Section 112, has been addressed.

The rejections of Claims 1-5 and 7-13 as being anticipated by Murachi et al and of Claims 1-13 as being anticipated by Clerc et al, both under 35 USC Section 102(b), are traversed, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that the claimed heat transfer part or heat conductive member of the present invention corresponds to the electric heater 5a in the Murachi et al patent and this electric heater 5a transfers heat generated in the removal part (DPF7) to the purification part (catalyst 5, absorbent 9, catalyst 10). The electric heater 5a cannot reasonably be construed as transfer part or the container of conductive material because the container in the claimed invention accommodates therein both the removal part and the purification part, and the inner wall of conductive material contacts the removal part and the purification part. The electric heater 5a disclosed in Murachi et al does not transfer the heat generated in the removal part or filter to the purification part or catalyst, although it does transfer the heat generated by the electric heater to the oxidizing catalyst. However, such heat is not heat generated in the removal part or the filter.

In addition, assuming that the Murachi et al system uses one or more containers or for the oxidizing catalyst 5, DPF 7 and NOx absorbent 9, it does

not teach the use of a container made of conductive material or having an inner wall of conductive material, and containing therein both the catalyst and DPF so as to contact with the catalyst and DPF.

The Clerc et al patent discloses a removal part (trap 14) for trapping and removing particulates in the exhaust gas, a purification part (catalyst 16) for purifying NO_x, HC and CO through contact, and a heat transfer part (barrier 18) for transferring heat generated in the removal part to the purification part. That is, the heat transfer part is construed as the regeneration burner 18 of Clerc et al which is periodically activated for oxidizing the particulate matter trapped in the particulate trap 14. The regeneration burner 18 is a high temperature diesel fuel burner that, when properly ignited, will reach temperatures in excess of 100 degrees F. Such excessive temperatures can damage or burn out the oxidation catalyst 16 thereby requiring its replacement as disclosed in column 4, lines 16 et seq. The burner 18 is periodically activated whereby the temperature elevation is suppressed. The periodic operation is controlled using differential pressure data by pressure sensors and temperature data obtained sensors located immediately upstream and downstream of the trap 14 (column 5, lines 31 to 57). As for heat transfer between the trap 14 and the catalyst 16, it appears that this is effected by gas flows A, C. Heat conductivity of the Clerc et al housing is not intended because the housing 2 contains the muffler 26 and a by-pass flow passage 12 in addition to the particulate trap 14 and oxidation catalyst 16. The regeneration burner 18 cannot be reasonably construed as a heat transfer part which composed of a

container made of conductive material or having an inner wall of conductive material. Although the Clerc et al patent discloses a housing containing therein the particulate trap 14 and oxidization catalyst 16, it does not disclose that the housing has an inner wall of conduct material.

In contrast to Murachi et al and Clerc et al, the claimed invention herein is an exhaust gas purification apparatus in which heat generated in a removal part is transferred to a purification part by using a heat transfer part, or container having, for example, an inner wall of good heat conductive material. The container accommodates therein the purification part such as an exhaust gas purifying catalyst and the heat removal part for trapping and removing particulates in the exhaust gas so that the inner wall of the container is in contact with the removal part and the purification part to transfer the heat generated by the removal part to the purification part through the container.

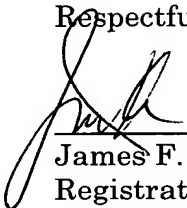
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Application No. 10/705,921
Reply dated July 22, 2005

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.52917US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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